

# THE AMERICAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

April — June 2009

<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/resources.html>

## American Library Is Now Open On Saturdays

After nearly a decade, the American Library Chennai opened its doors to the public on Saturdays with a Grand Opening Ceremony on April 11, 2009. Consul General Andrew Simkin addressed the attendees and urged them to visit the Library Monday through Saturday to make use of all available services. About 200 of our members participated in the celebrations, and we signed up 29 new



Public Affairs Officer Frederick Kaplan and Consul General Andrew T. Simkin talking with library members at the Saturdays Grand Opening .

The U.S. India-Educational Foundation, which has an office at the American Library, also announced it will offer services on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. It is our hope that the new schedule will be beneficial to all our members and the community that we serve.

The theme for this edition of the American Library Chennai Newsletter is the environment. As you may know, the world celebrates two important days: Earth Day on April 22 and World Environment Day on June 5. In order to disseminate information on environmental issues, we have included a list of resources on these special celebrations.

I am excited to present you our new redesigned newsletter. The Library staff will continue to bring you exciting new materials and resources. I hope you will find this newsletter interesting and informative, and I look forward to seeing you on Saturdays in addition to the other working days.

Frederick J. Kaplan  
Consul for Public Affairs

members. Two films were screened: "Casablanca" and "The Great Escape." A Saturday Film Matinee will now be part of the Saturday permanent schedule – members will be notified of the upcoming films via email and through the Library webpage at <http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/resources.html>

**New Library Hours:**  
Monday through Saturday  
9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### 10 things you can do at the American Library

1. Borrow audio CDs of books and listen to American fiction
2. Borrow back issues of journals and magazines
3. Access books from American Libraries in New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai
4. Improve your language skills through our English as a second language collection
5. Request a film or documentary screening for a group
6. Call or email requesting information
7. Reserve books currently on circulation
8. Surf the net (free for members)
9. Get individualized reference assistance
10. Relax in the new lounge, read an American newspaper and watch the news



The American Library  
U.S. Consulate General  
Gemini Circle, Chennai 600 006  
Phone: 044-2857-4223/4089  
Fax: 044-2857-4307  
Reference: [chennairefdesk@state.gov](mailto:chennairefdesk@state.gov)  
Circulation: [chennaicircdesk@state.gov](mailto:chennaicircdesk@state.gov)  
M.K. Jagadish, Library Director

#### Inside this issue:

Earth Day	p2
Members' Corner	p3
Great Summer....	p4
Electronic Journals	p4

## The Environment

**Earth Day:** The first Earth Day was celebrated 39 years ago on 22 April 1970, a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe and much improvement has been made to improve the global environment. Through the combined efforts of grassroots organizations, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our planet.



Earth Day 2009 Poster

**World Environment Day,** commemorated annually on June 5<sup>th</sup>, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

*To learn more and find useful tips to protect the environment and your health, you can explore the following:*

**Online resources:** The Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), the Earth Day Site [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov), the Natural Resources Conservation Service at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/), the State Department Bureau of Oceans, the International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at [www.state.gov/g/oes/](http://www.state.gov/g/oes/), the U.S. Geological Survey at <http://www.usgs.gov/>, the U.S. Global Change Research Program at [www.usgcrp.gov](http://www.usgcrp.gov), and the White House Council on Environmental Quality at [www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/6](http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/6)

## Books

**REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT: An Earth Resource Perspective** by John R. Jensen (REF 550.28 JEN)

**MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT, MANAGING OURSELVES: A History of American Environmental Policy** by Richard L. Andrews (363.7 AND)

**MANAGING BIODIVERSITY in AGRICULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS** by Devra I. Jarvis (630 MAN)

**HARNESSING FARMS AND FORESTS IN THE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY: How to Create, Measure, and Verify Greenhouse Gas Offsets.** Edited by Zach Wiley and Bill Chameides (363.738 HAR)

## Articles

"Communicating Climate Change: Why Frames Matter for Public Engagement" by Matthew C Nisbet. **Environment**, March 2009, Vol. 51 Issue 2, pp. 12-23.

"Has Foreign Aid Been Greened?" by J. Timmons Roberts, Bradley C. Parks, Michael J. Tierney, and Robert L. Hicks. **Environment**, January 2009, Vol. 51 Issue 1, pp. 8-21.

"Toward a Low Carbon Economy: Municipal Financing for Energy Efficiency and Solar Power" by Merrian C. Fuller, Stephen CompagniPortis and Daniel M. Kammen. **Environment**, January 2009, Vol. 51 Issue 1, p22-33.

"Saving The Environment: Five Creative Approaches" by Clifton Anderson. **The Futurist**, March/April 2009. Vol. 43, Issue 2, pp. 48-51

"Pragmatic Sustainability: Translating Environmental Ethics Into Competitive Advantage" by Jeffrey G. York. **Journal of Business Ethics**, February 2009. Vol. 85, pp. 97-109

## Saturday Film Matinee

Please check your email or the library webpage  
(<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/satmatinee.html>)  
for the movie of the week.

## Dates to Remember

April 2- 8	National Library Week
April 13	Samuel Beckett: Birth Anniversary
April 15	Henry James: Birth Anniversary
April 22	Earth Day
May 25	Memorial Day (Holiday)
May 27	International Jazz Day
May 29	John F. Kennedy: Birth Anniversary
May 31	Walt Whitman: Birth Anniversary
June 5	World Environment Day
June 1-30	National Safety Month
June 14	Flag Day

## Members' Corner

In an effort to enhance interaction with our members, we would like to solicit your contributions, opinions and comments. For this edition of the newsletter, we have selected a couple of comments from the Saturdays Grand Opening Ceremony. We ask members to submit their replies to: "What the American Library means to me". Please send your entries to [chennairefdesk@state.gov](mailto:chennairefdesk@state.gov). One or two entries will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

*"I have seen the American Library grow since the 60s (when I was still not 10), been to its premises during my school recess, and continue enjoying reading through its current collection. I am happy that the Library will be open to the public on Saturdays and we will once again enjoy the movies in its auditorium. A wonderful place to relax and delve into the pleasure of learning through the diverse subjects found on the shelves."*  
– Dipanker Ghose

*"The wealth of material is simply amazing. In this knowledge era, this abundance of print and electronic material will undoubtedly help visitors, both young and old, to whet their appetite for more and more information."* – T. Rajagopalan



Consul General Andrew T. Simkin cutting the cake at the Saturdays Grand Opening on April 11 with American Library members.

## Online Information Resource

The premium online information resource EBSCOhost is now available at the American Library. This database gives you access to full texts of scholarly and professional articles from magazines and journals. It includes databases such as the Academic Search Elite, Business Source Elite, MasterFILE Premier and Literary Reference Center covering full text for over 3,000 periodicals and abstracts and indexing for over 2,800 journals related to social sciences and the humanities.



## Great Summer Companions: What's New at the American Library!

What better way to enjoy the hot summer months in South India than choosing from our new book section! Here are the librarians' top picks:

**MASTERPIECES OF 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN DRAMA** by Susan C.W. Abbotson (812.509 ABB). *This reference work introduces 10 of the most important modern American plays, including: Our Town, A Streetcar Named Desire, Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, Long's Day Journey into Night, A Raisin in the Sun, Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?, Buried Child, Glenngary Glen Rose, and the Piano Lesson.*

**BUSINESS COMMUNICATION TODAY** (9<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Courtland L. Bovee (R658.45 BOV). *A comprehensive selection of model documents reflecting the multimedia emphasis of today's business communication.*

**BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR LIBRARY MARKETING PLAN: A GUIDE TO HELP YOU SURVIVE AND THRIVE** by Patricia H. Fisher. (021.7 FIS). *This book will guide you on how to create and implement a marketing plan to make your library competitive.*

**POLITICS AND THE AMERICAN TELEVISION COMEDY: A Critical Survey from I Love Lucy through South Park** by Doyle Greene (791.45617 GRE). *An examination of the unique and changing relationship between politics and comedy.*

**THE SUPREME COURT OPINIONS OF CLARENCE THOMAS, 1991-2006: A CONSERVATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE** by Henry Mark Holzer (347.732634 THO). *An objective look at Justice Clarence Thomas's record on the Supreme Court.*

**BEYOND GARRISON: ANTISLAVERY AND SOCIAL REFORM** by Bruce Laurie (326 LAU). *A study of the abolition movement in America that includes the history of abolitionism, anti-slavery, and antebellum politics.*

**ZIGZAGGING DOWN A WILD TRAIL** by Bobbie Ann Mason (c2002 (MAS)). *A compelling collection of stories captures life in contemporary America by providing a portrait of small-town lives in Kentucky.*

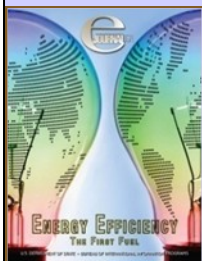
**RACE, SLAVERY, AND LIBERALISM IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE** by Arthur Riss (810.9 RIS). *A reexamination of prevailing accounts of the relationship between slavery, liberalism and literary representations.*

**CASES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PORTRAITS OF THE FUTURE** (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) by Donald M. Snow (327 SNO). *A collection of journal articles which provides an integrated approach to examining global issues.*



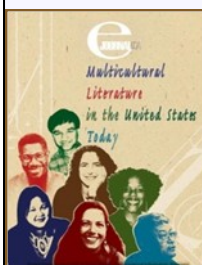
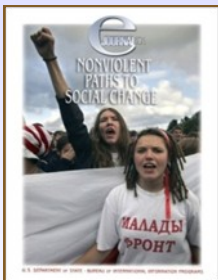
## Electronic Journals

All eJournals can be found at: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>



Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs. *Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel* examines the strong U.S. record of tapping efficiency as a resource, and the accelerated efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to squeeze greater productivity from all energy sources.

The past 30 years have seen a surge of nonviolent "people power" movements around the world advancing human rights and toppling repressive rulers. This edition of eJournal USA demonstrates that nonviolent actions can be more powerful than armed insurrections in bringing about social change



The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of eJournal USA focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.



## Department of State Blog (<http://blogs.state.gov>)

The mission of the U.S. Department of State is to create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community. Through its websites and other online resources, the Department offers broad public access to a wide range of information. [Blogs.state.gov](http://blogs.state.gov) offers the public an alternative source to mainstream media for U.S. foreign policy information. This blog offers the opportunity for participants to discuss important foreign policy issues with senior State Department officials.

## Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass

*Leaves of Grass* is a classic of American poetry. Whitman's poems celebrated modern life through themes that were considered taboo at the time the first edition was published in 1855.

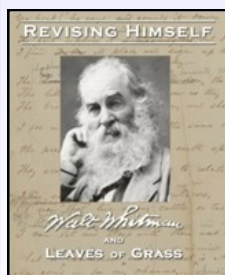
Whitman attempted to reach out to the common person through this American epic, now considered one of the most extraordinary works of

wit and wisdom in American literature. In-  
dentalism, Whit-  
lection includes  
est poems of  
including his  
"Song of My-  
tain! My Cap-  
standard con-  
bolism and alle-  
an unabashed  
and nature. Whit-  
panding and revis-

"I celebrate myself,  
and sing myself,  
And what I assume  
you shall assume,  
For every atom  
belonging to me as  
good belongs to  
you."  
from *Song of  
Myself*

inspired by Transcen-  
man's immortal col-  
some of the great-  
modern times  
masterpieces  
self" and "O Cap-  
tain!" Shattering  
ventions of sym-  
gory, it stands as  
celebration of body  
man continued ex-  
ing *Leaves of Grass*

until his death in 1892. **This and many other American classics are available at the American Library, where you can also find a great American poetry collection.**



Walt Whitman was a 19th century writer whose life's work, *Leaves of Grass*, made him one of the first American poets to gain international attention. Whitman spent most of his young life in Brooklyn, where he worked as a printer and newspaper journalist through the 1850s. The first edition of *Leaves of Grass* was privately printed in 1855 and consisted of 12 untitled poems, one of which was to later become famous as "Song of Myself."

He has strongly influenced the direction of 20th-century American poets, especially Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg, and, most recently, Allen Ginsberg and other "Beat" poets. His literary style was experimental, a free-verse avalanche in celebration of nature and self that has since been described as the first expression of a distinctly American voice.

Source: : "Chase's Calendar of Events".



Book Donation to St.Ebba's Higher Secondary School, Chennai